



# **LINCOLN CHAFEE**

## **U.S. SENATOR**

### **RHODE ISLAND**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **CHAFEE WORKS WITH ADMINISTRATION TO KEEP GEAR UP PROGRAM AFLOAT IN RHODE ISLAND**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today announced that the Office of the U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings has informed him that \$7.926 million in federal funding will be sent to Rhode Island to fund the GEAR UP Program for fiscal years 2007 and 2008. This funding comes in addition to a previous \$250,000 announced by Chafee earlier this September for fiscal year 2006.

Of the award, \$2.476 million has been allocated for fiscal year 2007 and the remaining \$5.45 million for fiscal year 2008. To provide necessary additional funding for fiscal year 2006, funding allocated for fiscal year 2007 may be used in 2006. In addition, one half of the funding allocated for fiscal year 2008 may be used to supplement costs in fiscal year 2007.

GEAR UP seeks to increase disadvantaged students' secondary school completion and postsecondary enrollment by providing support services and by assuring students of the availability of financial aid to meet college costs.

"I was delighted to receive notification from the Department of Education of its decision to allocate almost \$8 million to the Rhode Island Children's Crusade to help continue the important work they do with the GEAR UP program," said Senator Chafee. "I am pleased that my efforts to work with the Administration and my colleagues in Congress to seek additional funds have ensured that this critical program will be restored in order to maintain the high quality services it is providing to over 4,000 disadvantaged children in our state."

The Children's Crusade, the only Rhode Island organization that receives federal GEAR UP funding, recently learned that their application for future funding was denied. Senator Chafee worked directly with the Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings to convince the U.S. Department of Education that zero funding would effectively eliminate

the program in Rhode Island. He joined Senator Reed and the other members of Rhode Island's congressional delegation in sending a letter last month requesting that the funding be reconsidered.

The Children's Crusade has run a GEAR UP program since its authorization in 1998. Rhode Island's program began prior to GEAR UP's authorization and was cited as a model for the original GEAR UP legislation. The program has consistently received high marks on their annual reviews by the Department of Education.

The Rhode Island program starts working with children in third grade using AmeriCorps funds, and follows them through high school.

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